

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 295 without my signature.

This bill would mandate state agencies that collect demographic data regarding ethnicity to make separate classifications for specified Asian groups. I believe this bill is unnecessary and imposes additional costs on state agencies at a time the state cannot afford them.

Even as we work to move beyond divisions based on race, I recognize there are times when it is appropriate for government to sort data based on ethnicity. That is why existing law gives state agencies the flexibility to expand upon current demographic categories if necessary. Given this flexibility, this bill is unnecessary. I encourage the proponents of this measure to work with individual agencies if they believe a circumstance exists where expanding the number of ethnic categories for the purposes of data collection is warranted.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger